
FEATURE ARTICLES



The School of International Graduate Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School



Building Partnership Capacity Through International Military Education and Training

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, California, has emerged as a center of excellence in the advanced study and application of defense matters. Further, the school has aided in the building of security alliances and coalitions as well as the capacities of our coalition partners and allies. In fact, the School of International Graduate Studies (SIGS) leads the transformation of NPS to meet evolving global security demands. The origins of SIGS reach back into the early 1990's, when NPS recognized the need to house all security assistance and international programs under a single roof. Building upon this foundation, SIGS has fostered innovative programs to meet the security challenges of the present conflict, with an eye to the needs of all the services and the duty to build partnership capacity.

The cornerstone of SIGS is the Department of National Security Affairs (NSA), a leading program of theoretical and applied advanced strategic study recognized by policy makers and researchers throughout the world. The department offers Master's and Doctoral degrees in Regional Studies and Security Studies. The majority of the faculty are tenured or tenure-track and engage in advanced research with the United States (U.S.) government and other organizations. The faculty analyzes the most urgent strategic issues, focusing on the requirements of our officers and teaching from relevant materials suited to both theoretical and practical aspects of the current conflict. Through the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency's International Military Education and Training (IMET) and Expanded-IMET programs, many of the NSA professors have established long-term relationships with senior security, defense and military officials around the world, opinion makers, and scholars studying how nations interact and cooperate. The NSA faculty's research has helped senior military and civilian leaders to better understand the requirements of statecraft, strategy, and leadership in a tumultuous global environment. Through their work, they have heavily contributed to the decision making process on issues of U.S. policy and strategy. Such networks of education and cooperation help NSA faculty to stay at the vanguard of developments in diplomacy, strategy, society, and culture.

Short course programs, executive education, and mobile education teams (METs) offered by the Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) provide outstanding opportunities to build the security capacity of partner nations. Education efforts of this kind are also provided by the Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction, the International Defense Acquisition Resource Management Program and the Defense Resources Management Institute (DRMI). It was from DRMI's initial effort in the 1960's that a variety of excellent international security programs evolved at SIGS. Each of these centers offers graduate-level executive education in various facets of security, defense and military reform presented in a true academic setting. The programs of these entities – tailored by the SIGS faculty and their partners to the needs of the host country – aid partner officials around the world to better analyze, formulate, and execute optimal security practices tailored to defense and military policies. Such an effort falls squarely within the needs of U.S. national strategy.

In addition to these programs to build international capacity, SIGS supports the U.S. Army education requirements outlined in Department of Defense Directive 3000.5 through its Leadership Development and Education for Sustained Peace (LDESP) program. LDESP prepares U.S. military units to deploy for stability operations in cooperation with multi-national partners. LDESP comprises a program of short courses focused on U.S. policy and strategy and is tailored to the precise needs of the unit. All involved gain an advanced understanding of the regional, geopolitical and cultural factors in their area of operations. The courses include the history, politics, society, economy and culture of the country or region in question, as well as details of language, means of negotiations, and other issues of relevance to area experts who advise the individual soldier and broader unit in security operations.

In this journal issue, SIGS provides articles about the IMET programs offered by the Center for Civil-Military Relations and the Defense Resources Management Institute, including information on the programs and research conducted by their faculty. Should you have any questions about the School of International Graduate Studies please contact us at (831) 656-1781 or visit our web site at <http://www.nps.edu/Academics/SIGS/index.html>.